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LANSING



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TO: Department Employees
FROM: Teri Takai
SUBJECT: Harvest Gathering

One of the great traditions in state government is the Michigan Harvest Gathering. For the past fifteen years employees of the State of Michigan have helped the needy of Michigan by contributing money and non-perishable foods for the Harvest Gathering. This year state employees will be collecting food and monetary contributions from Monday, October 24 - Monday, November 7, 2005.

We need your help as we embark upon the 2005 Michigan Harvest Gathering. The impact of Katrina and the unemployment numbers right here in Michigan have increased the challenges of food banks. This fall, now even more than before, we need to be conscious of and caring towards those facing hunger. **All** food donated goes to local food banks. **All** funds donated are used to transport food and to buy highly desirable food items for food banks such as tuna fish and peanut butter.

Last year, state workers donated very generous amounts of food and money—over 90,000 pounds of food and over \$34,000-- to Michigan Harvest Gathering for food banks across the state. This fun two-week drive for food and funds has generated positive morale and a special creative energy throughout state government. Speaking of fun, we'll be having a special Michigan Harvest Gathering concert and kickoff on the steps on the State Capitol on Wednesday, October 26.

Ms. Jennyl Simon is our department coordinator and she will be organizing all of the collection activities with the help of other department members. The locations of the donation sites within the department will be announced in the near future. If you have specific questions about the Harvest Gathering, please contact Ms. Simon at (517) 241-2960.

I am appreciative of your continued support and assistance. You make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in Michigan. We have seen the generosity of state employees in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And every year we have seen increased participation in the Michigan Harvest Gathering...a true testament to your caring and generosity.